

HOLSTER QUALIFICATION COURSE AND SAFETY ASSESSMENT MANUAL



Manual Three in the series



INTRODUCTION FOR ASSESSORS

Your job as an Assessor is to check that the club has done their part in training the shooter to a level of competency that will ensure everyone's safety on a range.

Once a shooter has decided on the style of shooting he/she wishes to be involved with, if it is one that involves drawing from the holster, they all need to follow the same requirements in order to obtain their course material and undertake the training at their club.

This involves them visiting the Pistol NZ Website / Downloads page and printing off the Holster Application Form. The Application is required to be submitted before they undertake the required training with the Club Training Officer.

THE HOLSTER COURSE

The course has been designed to provide guidance and instruction to enable shooters to participate safely in the following disciplines:

1. Action style events with semi automatic pistols
 - a) Action (NRA) pistol shooting
 - b) IPSC shooting
 - c) Speed Shooting
 - d) Three gun Style shooting – pistol section
 - e) Service Match
 - f) CAS
2. Events utilising revolvers
 - a) Cowboy action shooting
 - b) Service Match shooting
 - c) IPSC

In order to be eligible to sit this course the shooter MUST:

- a) Completed AT LEAST 4 months of the first 6 months of their probationary period, be at least 12 years of age AND a holder of the "Junior Proficiently" badge (12-16). Pistol NZ is aware that some clubs allow the trainee to take the course with equipment purchased by the trainee and held by a B Cat endorsed club member. This is not recommended. However, if this does happen the person whose name the firearm is registered to MUST be in attendance with the trainees at all times – as required by the MoU – Section 5.7 (1) and (2). Clarification: You can't take possession of a pistol without a permit to procure (Section 44 of the Arms Act, 1983). If a club gun is used then the person whose license it is on must be present.
- b) Have completed the "PNZ CLUB RANGE OFFICER SAFETY TEST". This is based on Section Two of the Members Handbook
- c) Be the holder of a current Firearms license or have completed the "Junior proficiency badge" course (12-16).
- d) Have received tuition from their club in the safe handling of firearms on the range, plus any initial safety training and deemed proficient by the Club Training Officer.
- e) Have their own equipment, (*except as permitted in a) above*). This includes the pistol they propose to use in their chosen discipline and, their own belt, holster and pouches.
- f) Dummy rounds for their pistol. (*Certified as safe by their CTO*) (These are rounds with No primer OR powder)

The Assessor must determine this prior to the assessment taking place.

What is not acceptable is:

- a) Equipment that has been borrowed for the occasion or the course (*Excluding club Guns or those as permitted in a) above*)
- b) Unsafe equipment that has been deemed by the club to be unsuitable

The objectives of this training programme are to:

- a) Make the trainee fully aware of their responsibilities when shooting from the holster and, at the end of the programme, the trainee will be able to:
 - Understand the rules and regulations pertaining to shooting from the holster
 - Understand their obligations
 - Understand and respond to Range Officer commands
 - Load, unload and reload a hand gun safely.
 - Demonstrate the basic drills competently
 - Shoot a match safely and should be able to achieve an acceptable result in order to demonstrate an ability to follow instruction and basic marksmanship.

Reassessment for a change of pistol:

Where a shooter changes their original pistol (eg: 1911 to a Glock or a revolver to a Semi/auto) they need to undergo a simple reassessment process to ensure that their safety, and that of other shooters, is assured. See section at the end.

It is mandatory for all shooters, range staff and spectators to wear eye and ear protection as a safety precaution during all Shooting events.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN AN ASSESSMENT

1. Ensure you have the information you require:
 - a) Schedule of the people you are assessing (No more than three at one time is recommended)
You should have been contacted by the Club Training Officer (CTO) to establish a suitable date for you to spend working through the assessments. They should have provided you with a list of names and contact details so you know how many people to expect.
 - b) Be sure that you have confirmed with the CTO the date, time and location for people to attend
2. Ensure you have the equipment you require:
 - a) Blank Holster Assessor's Forms for completion on the day in case the shooters turn up without them
 - b) Determine the number of targets you need for the day as well as patches if required. Nothing worse than arriving at the club to find they are out of targets and patches and having to 'make do'.
 - c) Targets that may be used (for Action Style Shooting) are:
 - IPSC Classic
 - Service Match
 - NRA AP-1
 - d) Targets that may be used (for CASS Style shooting) are:
 - SASS steel targets
 - Any of the above card targets if the assessor wishes to observe the location of the fired shots
3. Communicate the information relating to the equipment the shooter must bring with them:
 - a) Their own equipment such as:
 - Belt
 - Holster
 - Pistol (*Except as provided under the 'eligibility' clause in a) above*)
 - Dummy rounds (*As certified safe by the Club Training Officer*)
 - Ammunition
 - Holster course paperwork as downloaded from the PNZ website
 - Eye and hearing protection (it has happened!)
 - Firearms License so you can ensure they have a license as a minimum requirement
4. When the trainee arrives at the range:
 - a) Collect the 'Holster Assessor's' form from them with the top section completed.
 - b) Collect \$30.00 for the course from each of them or ask for some confirmation if they have paid PNZ Online. Bank information will be provided on the PNZ website and is in the shooter's manual. If they are being assessed for both Action and CAS they will need to pay \$60.00.

ONCE THE COURSE HAS BEEN COMPLETED

1. ONLY when the course is fully completed and signed off:
 - a) Complete the Assessor's Form (Copies are also available on the PNZ Website)
 - b) Attach the Holster Assessor's checklist (or a copy) to the Holster Assessor's Form
 - c) Attach the payment of \$30.00 per trainee to the form (per Course) or the confirmation of Online payment
 - d) Send all this paperwork to:
 - The Executive Officer
 - Pistol NZ
 - P O Box 391
 - HASTINGS 4156
 - e) Send a copy of the checklist to the trainee's Club if requested by its Club Training Officer.

CHECKING THE EQUIPMENT

THE PISTOL

The first requirement is for the shooter to own a suitable pistol (*except as permitted in 'eligibility a) above)* that will function reliably and safely.

For most action shooting the minimum centre fire calibre is 9mm (.38) .22 cal pistols can be used for drawing from a holster and are a developing feature in Action, Service and CAS related shooting.

They may choose to shoot a revolver. However, the semi-automatic is considered by many to be more appropriate in Action Shooting. In CAS the revolver is mandatory.

THE AMMUNITION

Ammunition used must be deemed safe. i.e. – not over or under loaded. An excessive load places dangerous stress factors on the brass and pistol which could very well result in injury or, at the very least, damage to the firearm. Light loads may result in a projectile being lodged in the barrel.

Note for assessor: This may not be ascertained until such time as the ammunition is used so may not feature as part of the early equipment check.

All course participants have been advised to seek the advice of experienced shooters regarding a suitable load for their pistol, the desired power factor and projectile if required by their discipline. They should only use only good quality brass and dispose of split or bulged cases. Participants have been advised that top shooters always barrel drop their loaded ammo before a match. It only takes one faulty round to ruin their chance of a winning score.

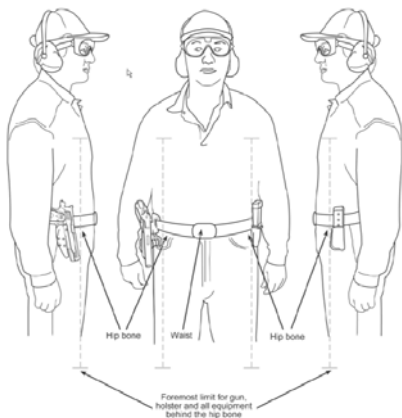
This is something you may wish to emphasise.

THE HOLSTER, BELT AND POUCHES – ACTION STYLE SHOOTING

Ensure that they have a good quality holster, one that will hold the pistol securely during all vigorous 'on range' movement. The holster must cover the trigger of the pistol when correctly holstered, making it impossible for any accidental trigger contact to occur. The top of the pistol butt must not be below the top edge of the belt.

The belt should be strong enough to carry all equipment and wide enough to disallow holster swivel or any other movement. Magazine or speed loader pouches may be worn on the holster belt and should be capable of retention. The gun belt must be suitably secure, threaded through belt loops, held via a Velcro double belt system or belt keepers.

Note: The use of Tactical or Tie Down Holsters for Action events is not permitted.



LOCATION OF AN ACTION HOLSTER AND POUCHES

The diagram identifies where a holster and pouches need to be located on the shooter to conform with the requirements of the International Rules that govern IPSC and Action shooting.

Note: For Standard and Production classes of IPSC you need to have your holster and magazine pouches worn **BEHIND** the hip bone. Refer IPSC Rules. (As shown)

All other classes may have the Pistol and Magazine pouches placed anywhere on the belt, on or forward of the hip bone. Women have a dispensation to lower their belt and pouches. Details can be found in the IPSC Rule book if required.

Ear and eye protection **MUST** be worn. Appropriate clothing should be worn including footwear, jandals are **NOT** recommended. A baseball cap or hat is also a good idea as most shooting is out under all weather conditions.

ACTION STYLE SHOOTING



EQUIPMENT CHECK AND UNDERSTANDING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SAFETY

Before shooting can begin it is important to observe the shooter's attitude and approach to safety requirements. They need to demonstrate, through their actions, their understanding and procedures when they start their shooting for the day and this applies to their set up for the Holster assessment as well. They should begin the day as if they were attending an event.

As part of their training they will have been advised of the following:

SAFETY ZONE

All pistol ranges that are approved for action shooting must have at least one Safety Zone designated. There will be at least one PRIMARY Safety Zone with possible SECONDARY Safety Zones on the ranges where an event requires them. These Safety zones are a clearly marked area where the shooter may:

- *Clear an unloaded pistol from bag, then into holster*
- *Clear an unloaded pistol from the holster, then into a bag*
- *Clean and make adjustments to a pistol*
- *Show their pistol to another person (s)*

AMMUNITION MUST NOT BE HANDLED IN THE SAFETY ZONE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE

However, magazines may be worn in a Secondary Safety Zone – but not a Primary Safety Zone – AS LONG AS the magazines are not handled in any way whatsoever.

Drawing and dry fire practise must only be conducted in a safety zone designated for this purpose and in which a SAFE direction is marked.

1	<p>Assessor's Instruction:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Instruct the shooters to put on their holsters and to place their pistol in the holster. They should follow the requirements, as above.Check all the equipment such as belt, Holster, Pouches, and pistolCheck the dummy ammunitionMake sure they are wearing suitable ear and eye protection
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ACTION SHOOTING

ON RANGE MOVEMENT AND GUN HANDLING IN GENERAL

Trainees will have had demonstrated, and be well used, to moving their trigger finger to the side of the slide when loading, moving with a gun or dealing with malfunctions. A simple way of observing their normal practise is to have them draw the pistol and take a sight picture, then reholster the pistol. The practise of moving their trigger finger to the side of the slide should be ingrained in them by the time of their assessment. If they receive an instruction whilst the pistol is drawn their attention should ensure that the muzzle of the pistol is always pointed up range.



Practical (IPSC) shooting, includes on range movement. Unless engaging a target while moving with a loaded pistol.

- **The trigger finger MUST be outside the trigger guard**
- **The muzzle MUST NOT be permitted to break the 180 degrees (point up range whether loaded or not)**

Failure to comply with these two requirements invokes disqualification.

Definition:

Uprange: Is that area BEHIND the shooting box and towards the 'safe' area of the range

Downrange: Is that area that points towards the targets.

5 STAGE DRAW

1. Take a firm grip of the butt, trigger finger extended and outside of the trigger guard.
2. Draw the pistol, immediately pointing the muzzle down range.
3. As the muzzle of the pistol breaks the 45 degree angle, disengage the safety catch. If shooting free style take a firm, two handed grip.
4. Take a sight picture and bring the trigger finger into the trigger guard.
5. You have now safely drawn the pistol, have it pointing down range, sights aligned on target – commence gentle pressure on the trigger until the shot breaks.

You may wish to refer to the photographs in the Club Training Officer's Manual.

2	<p><u>Assessor's Instruction:</u></p> <p>Ask each trainee, one at a time, to draw their pistol – following the 5 stage draw process -and take a sight picture. Whilst pistol is drawn, offer a comment that will draw their attention and observe their response. Their finger should not leave the side of the slide or move in any direction away from down range and always be within the 180 degrees, nor should the muzzle.</p>
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MALFUNCTIONS AND THE NECESSARY REMEDIAL ACTIONS

3	<p><u>Assessor's Instruction:</u></p> <p>It is not the job of the Assessor to test for an ability to manage malfunctions. However, if such do occur during the testing the assessor may comment as appropriate on the checklist if required.</p>
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RANGE OFFICER COMMANDS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Range Officer's major function is to ensure all shooting and in range activity is conducted safely. Shooters, range staff and spectators must obey all lawful commands and requests made by a duly appointed Range Officer.

A Range Officer should always act and appear as the 'true professional': calm, courteous, firm and in control at all times and completely unbiased.

Let us consider that a shooter has arrived on range in order to take part in an organised competition. The following procedures of events would be expected:

The competitor, by name or competitor number, would be called to the firing line:

"Range is in use"

"Shooter to the line – do you understand the course of fire?"

(In Action Pistol Shooting the question is – 'Does the shooter accept his/her targets')

"Load and make ready"

Shooter loads the magazine/loader into the pistol, holsters the pistol, and assumes the 'ready' position.

"Ready" or Are you ready?"

The shooter need not reply unless not ready.

"Standby"

Start signal sounds or the targets turn to face. Shooter commences the course of fire.

When the shooter has finished firing, lower the pistol to the 45° position, finger out of the trigger guard and they must await the Range Officer's command to unload and show clear.

"If you are finished, unload and show clear"

Shooter unloads and presents the pistol for inspection.

It is both the Range Officer's **AND** the shooter's responsibility to ensure the gun is clear.

"Gun clear, hammer down, holster "

At this point the shooter must still have a firm grip of the gun, aim downrange at the berm (clear of all props and targets) and pull the trigger allowing the hammer to fall. This must be an 'aimed shot'. If the gun is 'clear' then it must be placed in the holster.

"Range is clear"

"Stop"

The shooter **MUST** stop immediately they hear this command and follow the instructions the Range Officer may give

"Finger" or "Muzzle"

A warning that the finger is getting too close to the trigger when moving or clearing a jam or the muzzle of the pistol is starting to creep towards the 180 degrees. These warnings can be given while a shooter is moving through a stage or a course of fire.

4

Assessor's Instruction:

It is essential that the trainee understands and follows Range Officer instruction. Have the trainees load their 6 dummy rounds into a magazine and then place the magazine in one of the belt pouches. Have them follow the instructions above and finish with the pistol in the holster and the magazine in the pouch.

SHOOTING STANCE, GRIPS AND POSITIONS

The 'Weaver' Stance

Designed to reduce muzzle recoil recovery time. This stance enhances the shooter's ability to draw and index targets at speed. One foot is placed behind and to the side of the other and the body turned at an angle.

The 'Isosceles' Stance

Possibly used for more accurate, long distance shooting. The body is 'square' on to the targets and the shooter standing with feet placed apart.

Free Style

Using any safe grip method you like.

Strong hand only: For a right handed person, using this hand only. Left hand can be rested on the belt.

Weak hand only: For a right handed person, using the left hand only. The shooter can rest the right (*or strong*) hand on his belt. Some shooters place the strong hand on their chest.

Sitting

Acquiring this position may take a bit of practise to ensure that the shooter finds a comfortable position to shoot from and one that enables them to stand again with ease, controlling the muzzle of the pistol at all times.

Kneeling

Either on one knee or two this is also a position that the shooter has to adopt that suits their style and ease of movement to the standing position with relative ease.

Prone

Moving from the standing to the prone position takes some practise. The direction of the muzzle must be watched at all time, ensuring that it does not sweep the shooter's hand while moving to the ground. Dropping to one knee and the 'weak' hand before lowering to the ground has been the best practise for most shooters. Again, watch for the sweeping of the hand the muzzle direction.

Starting box – facing up range

Some stages require the shooter to load their pistol, holster, then turn to face up range. It is critical that the pistol is not drawn until such time as it is able to be pointed in a safe direction that does not break the 180 degrees. It is normal practise to turn to face down range keeping the holstered pistol on the side to which the shooter is to turn. (eg: Right handed holster – the shooter turns clockwise) The shooter should indicate to the Range Officer which direction they propose to turn so the RO can move to a safe position away from where the muzzle may be drawn.

Moving backwards on a stage

The shooter must be mindful of the direction in which their muzzle is pointing at all times. It must not point in any direction other than within the 180 degree radius of the shooting line. They can move sideways with the pistol pointing down range, they can move across the range and the Range Officer needs to be able to anticipate where the shooter may move in order to keep behind them.

5

Assessor's Instruction:

Before moving to a 'live fire' session' ask each of the shooter's to demonstrate their procedure in terms of each of the above shooting positions. This way you will get some indication of any areas of concern that need closer attention and will also give you the opportunity to point out any flaws in their training. Each of the positions and styles need to be shown with dummy rounds.

FINAL LIVE FIRE TESTAssessor's Instruction:For your information

- All courses are 'Virginia Count' or – no extra shots permitted over those that are specified
 - All Targets should be either IPSC, SERVICE or NRA Targets and a minimum of 7 meters. You will need 4 targets for the course
 - The final score results are to be included on the Holster Assessor's return form.
 - The time is not as important as the placement of the shots on the targets but a reasonable time to complete each section is to be expected.
- Assessing the person's confidence, safety and competence under a pseudo match condition
- Take each trainee through one at a time, one Section at a time, using the standard Range commands.
 - Each is to shoot a string of shots, as follows, that incorporates the various shooting positions.
 - Start position shall be the 'surrender' position.

Free style – two handed

Draw and fire a single shot at **target one**, reload, fire a second shot at **target two**. Lower pistol to 45 degrees position – apply safety catch – re holster.

Repeat three times – number of rounds required 6

Strong Hand / Weak Hand Shooting

Draw with the strong hand only and fire one shot at **target one**. Lower pistol to 45 degree position – apply safety catch – re holster -draw and transfer pistol to the weak hand, fire one shot at **target one**. Transfer pistol back to the strong hand. Lower pistol to 45 degrees position – apply safety catch – re holster

Repeat three times – number of rounds required 6

Kneeling and Prone Shooter – Free Style

Draw, kneel, and fire two shots at **target one**. Lower pistol to 45 degrees position – apply safety catch – re holster - Draw, drop to prone position, fire two shots at **target one**. Lower pistol to 45 degrees position, apply safety catch – re holster.

Repeat exercise three times – number of rounds required – 12.

Barricade and shooting on the move

Standing in front of a barricade, **Box 1**, draw and fire two shots from right side of barricade on **target one**. Move pistol to left side of barricade and fire two shots at **target two**. Finger out of trigger guard, **RELOAD WHILE MOVING TO Box 2**, then fire two shots at **target three**. Finger out of trigger guard, **RELOAD** and engage **target four** with two shots. Lower pistol to 45 degrees and await Range Officer's instructions

Repeat exercise twice – number of rounds required – 16

Staged pistol – IPSC or CAS events (See CAS for CAS details)

Retrieve the pistol from a table, load and engage **target one** with two shots.
Number of rounds Required- 2

Note: Total of 42 rounds required

A minimum result of 85% (36 hits out of 42) of the possible is required to pass the course. As none of the course is set against the timer this should be achievable. The objective of this pass mark is to test the shooter's ability to keep their shots within the range's safety cone of fire.

The number of hits needs to be included on the final Assessment form.

SHOOTERS' OBLIGATIONS

The shooter should be in touch with the progress of their squad / detail and the order of the shooters to ensure that when they are given the call that they are one of the next in line to shoot that they are ready to go to the line.

The shooter should arrive on the firing line 'fully prepared', have all magazines loaded, ear and eye protection on.

Know what is expected of them and arrive ready to start.

If they receive a warning or request from the Range Officer – they should take it in the spirit it is offered. We are talking about their safety and the safety of every other person on range.

Appreciate the Range Officer's job. It's a tough one so it is nice to be thanked after a course of fire or match.

Also, they should offer to help with range duties such as patching, painting or resetting targets. Help pick up brass. This sort of help keeps the days shooting moving along and helps share the workload, plus promotes a lot of goodwill.

Action style shooting has, to date, a remarkable safety track record. Each and every shooter supervised by a range officer. Very strict rules and regulations are in force to protect us all. Unsafe gun handling, if and when observed, will without exception be addressed. In fact, there is an agreement amongst action shooters - if an unsafe procedure is pointed out by another action shooter or range officer, it will be accepted in good grace and a "thank you" offered. After all, who wants to be the one who could possibly destroy our unblemished safe pistol shooting record.

This information is not for assessment but the shooter is advised to read this in their manual and the club advised to later include it in their training. The 'preparedness' should follow through to the attitude when being assessed.



COWBOY ACTION STYLE SHOOTING

UNDERSTANDING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SAFETY

Before shooting can begin it is important that the Assessor observes the shooter's attitude and approach to safety requirements. They need to demonstrate, through their actions, their understanding and procedures when they start their shooting for the day and this applies to their set up for the Holster assessment as well. They should begin the day as if they were attending an event.

This course should be done with the applicant having read the 'SASS Shooters Manual' and the 'SASS Range Operations Manual' both downloadable from the PNZ Website.

As part of their training they will have been advised of the following:

SAFETY ZONE

All pistol ranges that are approved for action shooting must have at least one safety zone designated. There will be at least one PRIMARY Safety Zone with SECONDARY Safety Zones on the ranges. These Safety zones are a clearly marked area where the shooter may:

- *Clear an unloaded pistol from bag, then into holster*
- *Clear an unloaded pistol from the holster, then into a bag*
- *Clean and make adjustments to a pistol*
- *Show their pistol to another person (s)*

AMMUNITION MUST NOT BE HANDLED IN A SAFETY ZONE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE

Ammo belts and loading strips may be worn in a Secondary Safety AS LONG AS ammo is not handled in any way whatsoever.

Drawing and dry fire practice must only be conducted in a safety zone designated for this purpose and in which a SAFE direction is marked.



LOCATION OF CAS HOLSTERS AND POUCHES

These pictures identify where holsters and pouches need to be located on the shooter to conform to the requirements of the International Rules that govern SASS shooting.

The belts, holster and buckles must be robust and strong enough to hold the weight of a loaded pistol and/or the included weight of loaded ammunition. Professionally made gear, whilst it can be expensive, is an investment and a 'one off' purchase that should see the shooter through their shooting 'career'.



7

Assessor's Instruction:

Instruct the shooters to put on their holsters and to place their pistol in the holster. They should follow the requirements, as above.

CHECKING THE EQUIPMENT

THE PISTOL

The first requirement is for the shooter to own a suitable pistol that will function reliably and safely and be appropriate for the discipline.

Depending on the style of shooting, such as 'Wild Bunch' where a semi-auto pistol is used, advice should be sought from either CAS Section Director or someone conversant with the style of shooting.

THE AMMUNITION

Ammunition used must be deemed safe. i.e. – not over or under loaded. An excessive load places dangerous stress factors on the brass and pistol which could very well result in injury or, at the very least, damage to the firearm. Light loads may result in a projectile being lodged in the barrel.

Note for assessor: This may not be ascertained until such time as the ammunition is used so may not feature as part of the early equipment check.

All course participants have been advised to seek the advice of experienced shooters regarding a suitable load for their pistol, the desired power factor and projectile if required by their discipline. They should only use only good quality brass and dispose of split or bulged cases. Participants have been advised that top shooters always barrel drop their loaded ammo before a match. It only takes one faulty round to ruin their chance of a winning score.

This is something you may wish to emphasise.

Ear and eye protection MUST be worn. Appropriate clothing should be worn including footwear, jandals are NOT recommended and are outlawed by CAS. A baseball cap or hat is also a good idea as most shooting is out under all weather conditions.

7	<p><u>Assessor's Instruction:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Instruct the shooters to put on their holsters and to place their pistol in the holster. They should follow the requirements, as above.b) Check all the equipment such as belt, Holster, Pouches, and pistolc) Check the dummy ammunitiond) Make sure they are wearing suitable ear and eye protection
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CAS SHOOTING

ON RANGE MOVEMENT AND GUN HANDLING IN GENERAL

Trainees will have had demonstrated, and be well used, to moving with a gun with the hammer down on an empty chamber or on a spent case and removing their trigger finger while dealing with malfunctions. A simple way of observing their normal practise is to have them draw the pistol and take a sight picture, then reholster the pistol, using both strong side and weak side pistols. If they receive an instruction whilst the pistol is drawn their attention should ensure that the muzzle of the pistol is always pointed up range.

CAS shooting, includes on range movement. Unless engaging a target while moving with a loaded pistol.

- **Hammer must be down on an empty chamber or a spent case**
- **The muzzle MUST NOT be permitted to break the 170 degrees (point up range whether loaded or not)**

Failure to comply with these two requirements invokes disqualification.

Definition:

- Uprange:** Is that area **BEHIND** the shooting box and towards the 'safe' area of the range
- Downrange:** Is that area that points towards the targets.

5 STAGE DRAW

- 1 Take a firm grip of the butt.
- 2 Draw the pistol, immediately pointing the muzzle down range.
- 3 As the muzzle of the pistol breaks the 45 degree angle take a firm, two handed grip.
- 4 Take a sight picture and bring the trigger finger into the trigger guard.
- 5 You have now safety drawn the pistol, have it pointing down range, sights aligned on target – commence gentle pressure on the trigger until the shot breaks.

8

Assessor's Instruction:

Ask each trainee, one at a time, to draw their pistol – following the 5 stage draw process -and take a sight picture. Whilst pistol is drawn, offer a comment that will draw their attention and observe their response. Their pistol must not move in any direction away from down range and always be within the 170 degrees.

MALFUNCTIONS AND THE NECESSARY REMEDIAL ACTIONS

9

Assessor's Instruction:

It is not the job of the Assessor to test for an ability to manage malfunctions. However, if such do occur during the testing the assessor may comment as appropriate on the checklist if required.

RANGE OFFICER COMMANDS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Range Officer's major function is to ensure all shooting and in range activity is conducted safely. It's the job of the RO to safely assist the shooter through the course of fire.

Shooters, range staff and spectators must obey all lawful commands and requests made by a duly appointed Range Officer.

A Range Officer should always act and appear as the 'true professional': calm, courteous, firm and in control at all times and completely unbiased.

Let us consider that a shooter has arrived on range in order to take part in an organised competition. The following procedures of events would be expected:

The competitor, by name or competitor number, would be called to the loading table where he loads both pistols and his rifle under the supervision of the person assigned to the task at the table.

The Competitor would then be called to the line where he would 'stage' his rifle and shotgun – according to the course of fire, and his pistols – if the course of fire requires it. For the purposes of the test the shooter will only be required to load his pistols and place them in the holsters – hammer down on an empty chamber. **5 rounds only.**

"Range is in use"

"Shooter to the line – do you understand the course of fire?"

"Ready" or Are you ready?"

The shooter need not reply unless not ready.

"Standby"

Start signal sounds or the targets turn to face. Shooter commences the course of fire.

When the shooter has finished firing, the pistol/s are replaced in the holster and the shooter proceeds to the unloading table and unloads the empty cases under the supervision of the person assigned to the task at the table. The pistols are then presented to the supervisor at the table and it is the responsibility of both the supervisor and the shooter to make sure the gun is clear.

"Range is clear"

10

Assessor's Instruction:

It is essential that the trainee understands and follows Range Officer instruction. Have the trainees load their 5 dummy rounds into each pistol at the loading table. Have them follow the instructions above and finish with the pistol in the holster and the gun checked to be clear.

SHOOTING STANCE, GRIPS AND POSITIONS

The 'Weaver' Stance

Designed to reduce muzzle recoil recovery time. This stance enhances the shooter's ability to draw and index targets at speed. One foot is placed behind and to the side of the other and the body turned at an angle.

The 'Isosceles' Stance

Possibly used for more accurate, long distance shooting. The body is 'square' on to the targets and the shooter standing with feet placed apart. A caution for those using a cross-draw. The shooter may have to twist the body so as not to break the 170 while drawing the pistol from the cross-draw holster

Free Style

Using any safe grip method you like.

Strong hand only: Duellist or Classic Cowboy For a right handed person, using this hand only. Left hand can be rested on the belt.

Weak hand only: Duellist or Classic Cowboy For a right handed person, using the left hand only. This shooter is resting the right hand on his belt. Some shooters place the strong hand on their chest.

Sitting

Acquiring this position may take a bit of practise to ensure that the shooter finds a comfortable position to shoot from and one that enables them to stand again with ease, controlling the muzzle of the pistol at all times. Pistols would be staged on the table

Kneeling

Either on one knee or two this is also a position that the shooter has to adopt that suits their style and ease of movement to the standing position with relative ease.

11	<p><u>Assessor's Instruction:</u></p> <p>Before moving to a 'live fire' session' ask each of the shooter's to demonstrate their procedure in terms of each of the above shooting positions. This way you will get some indication of any areas of concern that need closer attention and will also give you the opportunity to point out any flaws in their training. Each of the positions and styles need to be shown with dummy rounds.</p>
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Assessor's Instruction:

For your information

- All courses are 'Virginia Count' or – no extra shots permitted over those that are specified
- Scoring sheets are available for use as Appendix I of this manual. The final score results are to be included on the Holster Assessor's return form.
- The time is not as important as the placement of the shots on the targets but a reasonable time to complete each section is to be expected.

Assessing the person's confidence, safety and competence under a pseudo match condition

- Have a course of fire consisting of **three targets**, one target width apart, 7m down range.
- Take each trainee through one at a time, one Section at a time, using the standard Range commands.
- Each is to shoot a string of shots, as follows, that incorporates the various shooting positions.
- Start position shall be the 'surrender' position.

Section One – 20 rounds in total

- 2 shots standing –Target One. Holster with hammer down on an empty case
- 3 shots standing –Target Two and holster
- With second pistol
- 2 shots standing –Target Three. Holster with hammer down on an empty case
- 3 shots standing – Target One and holster
(Note: By changing the nominated target you will be able to identify whether or not the shooter is listening carefully to your instruction. This also gives the assessor an opportunity to check that the shooter is drawing safely)
- 10 shots standing – two shots on the first two targets then one on the third target, Pistol one. Repeat with the second pistol. Holster

Unload the pistols.

(Note: Run the next shooter through, if there is one, before taking the previous shooter on to Section Two)

Section Two – 10 shots in total

(Note: This is to assess the person's ability to transition between positions smoothly and safely)

Move your target set out to 10m or your start position back to accommodate the new distance.

- 5 shots kneeling.
- 5 shots sitting.

The pistols are to be reholstered after completion of the string and while the shooter is standing

Section Three – 16 shots in total

Note One

A basic course of fire is to be set up using two targets that are set so as to require:

- a) Sufficient movement between 2 shooting boxes so as to demonstrate muzzle control.
- b) Drawing second pistol while moving from shooting box to shooting box.
(Note: boxes should be set up diagonally to assess muzzle direction)
- c) Each shooter is to be 'one on one' supervised with the Assessor acting as the Range Officer
- d) Starting with the pistols loaded and holstered.

Note Two

- a) String one. Standing in Box A. On signal, draw 1st pistol and fire two shots at targets one, move to Box B and fire three shots on target two.
- b) String two. Position a table in front of the shooter. Standing in Box A. Place the loaded pistol, hammer down on empty chamber, on the table and extra rounds in the pouch on the body. On signal, retrieve pistol, load one extra round and fire three shots at target one and three shots at target 2. Holster the gun. Then move to position B and fire five rounds at target two. Second pistol may be drawn at or anywhere between position A and position B

Note: Total of 46 rounds required

A minimum result of 85% of the possible is required to pass the course. 39 out of 46. As none of the course are set against the timer this should be achievable.

ASSESSOR REMINDERS


It is suggested that you make copies of the checklists and retain the copy in the manual for future copying purposes.

Once you are satisfied that the trainee has met **all** the requirements you need to follow the following steps

		<i>Check</i>
1	Complete the 'Holster Assessor's Form' which can be found on page 20 of this manual.	
2	Ensure you have the \$30.00 per course to accompany the form.	
3	Send everything to: Executive Officer, Pistol NZ, P O Box 391, HASTINGS 4156	
4	Give a copy of the checklist to the Club Training Officer if wished or requested as well as a copy of your comments if the shooter failed to pass the course.	

This Assessment form below is primarily for the benefit of the Assessor and their records. Please retain it.

The form that is to be sent to the PNZ Office can be found on Page 20 of this Manual.

 PISTOL New Zealand	HOLSTER QUALIFICATION COURSE ASSESSMENT COMPLETION - ASSESSOR'S COPY OF RESULTS		
Trainees Surname			First Name
Postal Address:			Post Code:
Telephone No:		Email address:	
Firearms License:		Home Club:	
FM1 Number:		Chosen Discipline:	
Rule Book:	<input type="checkbox"/> IPSC <input type="checkbox"/> CAS <input type="checkbox"/> Action (NRA) Service Pistol <input type="checkbox"/> (Speed-Free Online)		
I declare that I have completed the prescribed course, through my club, as laid down by Pistol New Zealand		Trainee Signature:	

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Assessment Location				Date
Pistol used:	<input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Auto <input type="checkbox"/> Revolver <input type="checkbox"/> Single action			
Equipment check:	<input type="checkbox"/> Meets the requirements <input type="checkbox"/> Upgrade required			
Result of assessment:	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail <input type="checkbox"/> No of shots (Action) <input type="checkbox"/> No of shots (CAS)			
Commentary on outcome <i>(Where a pass is not approved the reasons may be helpful to the Club Training Officer for retraining purposes)</i>				

Assessor Details:	Name:	Signed:
	Email Address:	Number:
Date Form Sent:	Receipt Ref:	

HOLSTER & SAFETY ASSESSOR'S CHECKLIST

ACTION STYLE SHOOTING

Shooter's Name: _____ FM1: _____

Club: _____

Telephone Number: () _____ Email: _____

	Has been Observed	CHECK AREAS	Meets the standard	
			Yes	No
1		Equipment check and understanding the Safety requirements		
		a) Pistol		
		b) Ammunition (Dummy)		
		c) Holster, belt and pouches		
		d) Ear and eye protection		
		e) Preparation, fitting the holster and observing the requirements of the Safety Zone.		
2		5 Stage Draw		
3		Managing Malfunctions and remedial actions (not compulsory)		
4		Range Officer commands and responsibilities		
5		Shooting stance, grips and positions. Shooting safely		
6		Final live fire test	Hits	
			Possible	
		➤ Freestyle – 2 handed – 6 rounds in total	42	
		➤ Weak hand – 6 rounds in total		
		➤ Kneeling and prone, freestyle – 12 rounds in total	Actual	
		➤ Barricades, Doors and ports – 16 shots in total	<small>(Pass 36 required)</small>	
	➤ Staged pistol – 2 shots in total	P	E	

Reason for a 'fail' result (For use as guidance to the Club Training Officer for retraining)

HOLSTER & SAFETY ASSESSOR'S CHECKLIST CAS STYLE SHOOTING

Shooter's Name: _____ FM1: _____

Club: _____

Telephone Number: () _____ Email: _____

	<i>Has been Observed</i>	CHECK AREAS	<i>Meets the standard</i>	
			Yes	No
7		Equipment checked and understanding the safety requirements		
		a) Pistol		
		b) Ammunition (Dummy)		
		c) Holster, belt and pouches		
		d) Ear and eye protection		
		e) Preparation, fitting the holster and observing the requirements of the Safety Zone.		
8		5 stage draw		
9		Managing Malfunctions and remedial actions (not compulsory)		
10		Range Officer commands and responsibilities		
11		Shooting stance, grips and positions. Shooting safely		
12		Final 'live fire' test	Hits Possible	
		➤ Section One – 20 rounds in total	46	
		➤ Section Two – 10 rounds in total	Actual	
		➤ Section Three – 16 rounds in total	<i>(Pass 39 required)</i>	
			P	F

Reason for a 'fail' result (For use as guidance to the Club Training Officer for retraining)

Appendix I

Holster Qualification course and Safety assessment manual

Action Style - Target Scoring Sheets

		Hits	Miss	TOTAL	Total Shots possible
Section One					
Free Style 6 shots total	Target One				3
	Target Two				3
Section Two					
Strong hand/weak hand 6 shots in total	Target One				6
Section Three					
Kneeling & Prone 12 shots in total	Target One				12
Section Four					
Barricades, and shooting on the move 16 shots total	Target One				4
	Target Two				4
	Target Three				4
	Target Four				4
Section Five					
Staged pistol 2 rounds total	Target One				2
TOTALS					42
TOTAL SCORE					

Shooter's Name: _____ Date: _____

Holster Qualification course and Safety assessment manual

CAS Style - Target Scoring Sheets

		Hits	Miss	TOTAL	Total Shots possible
Section One					
20 shots total	Target One				5
	Target Two				3
	Target Three				12
Section Two					
10 shots total	Target One				10
Section Three					
16 shots in total	Target One				5
	Target Two				11
TOTALS					46
TOTAL SCORE					

Shooter's Name: _____ Date: _____



HOLSTER QUALIFICATION COURSE ASSESSMENT COMPLETION ADVICE TO PNZ

Trainees Surname		First Name	
Postal Address:			
Telephone No:	Email address:	Post Code:	
Firearms License:	Home Club:		
FM1 Number:	Chosen Discipline:		
Rule Book:	<input type="checkbox"/> IPSC <input type="checkbox"/> CAS <input type="checkbox"/> Action (NRA) <input type="checkbox"/> Service Pistol (Speed-Free Online)		
I declare that I have completed the prescribed course, through my club, as laid down by Trainee Signature: Pistol New Zealand			

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Assessment Location	Date	
Pistol used:	<input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Auto <input type="checkbox"/> Revolver <input type="checkbox"/> Single action	
Equipment check:	<input type="checkbox"/> Meets the requirements <input type="checkbox"/> Upgrade required	
Result of assessment:	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail <input type="checkbox"/> No of Hits (Action) <input type="checkbox"/> No of Hits (CAS)	
Assessor Details:	Name:	Signed:
	Email Address:	Number:

Holster Assessor Action:

When Complete		
Send to:	PNZ Executive Officer, P O Box 391, Hastings, 4156	Total Fees included: \$

PNZ Office use only

Date Form Received:	Receipt Ref:	
Date items sent:	Items sent:	Badge / s Rule Book / s Certificate / s



These manuals are
Produced by Pistol New Zealand to train clubs and
shooters in the skills for confident and competent
practises when drawing a pistol from the holster and a
guide for trained Assessors

1. Club Training Manual
2. Shooters Manual
3. Holster Assessors Manual